

The editors have succeeded to an unusual degree in overcoming the defects common to compilations of this kind. Repetitions occur, as is probably inevitable where many writers contribute to a single work; likewise relationships that should be drawn between the facts of different chapters are not stated and these gaps must be bridged over by the reader, but, in general, unity of treatment has been secured in spite of diversity of authors. The geographical viewpoint is consistently maintained; economic responses to physical environment are emphasized, but other determining factors are not overlooked; present conditions rather than past history are presented. As might be expected, the quality of the chapters vary, but taken as a whole, this series is the best description of the physical, economic and social conditions of the various parts of the British Empire that we have.

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HOPKINS, J. CASTELL (Ed.). *The Canadian Annual Review, 1915*. Pp. 880. Price, \$4.00. Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Company, 1916.

As might be expected, this issue is given over largely to the European war. The first four hundred pages have to do with such matters as the position of the various belligerents during 1915, a chronology of the war, Canada's responses to war demands—her contribution in men, money and achievements. Then follow an appraisal of the position of the United States during the progress of the war and a record of the diplomatic relations between the United States and Great Britain.

Without imputing to the first part of the *Review* a lack of good faith or inaccuracies one may still suggest the advisability of continually applying the ordinary tests of historical criticism.

The last four hundred pages of the book treat of the outstanding issues and problems in each of the various provinces of Canada during 1915. Such data regarding our northern neighbor are not to be passed over lightly by anyone wishing to keep fully posted on what was doing in 1915.

C. H. C.

OLCOTT, CHARLES S. *The Life of William McKinley*. 2 vols. Pp. xxiv, 818. Price, \$5.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1916.

The task of writing a biography of President McKinley was fortunately undertaken by an author of experience and literary ability. Having been connected with the publishing house of Houghton, Mifflin and Company for twenty-five years, Mr. Olcott brought to his work good standards and has succeeded in living up to those standards in presenting the life and work of William McKinley.

About three-eighths of the book deals with Mr. McKinley's early life and his work up to the time of becoming president, the remaining five-eighths of the work are devoted to a discussion of the tasks that confronted President McKinley and the spirit and manner with which he dealt with the problems he had to settle. The author is thoroughly in sympathy with Mr. McKinley's views on the tariff and upon all other public questions with the solution of which President McKinley

was concerned. This tends to deprive the work of a critical character and to make it almost without exception laudatory.

Mr. Olcott very properly gives a large amount of space to the discussion of events that preceded the Spanish-American War and to a consideration of President McKinley's conduct of the war. Mr. McKinley is entitled to great credit for the determination he manifested in holding Congress back for months from declaring war on Spain, and he is rightly entitled to credit for the manner in which he directed the peace negotiations. He has placed the country under great obligations for the way in which he organized the government of the Philippine Islands. Mr. McKinley, Secretary Root and Governor-General Taft started the American government in the Philippines in a manner that is entirely creditable to the United States. Among the other subjects considered by Mr. Olcott is the policy of the United States towards China during and after the Boxer trouble. The policy pursued by President McKinley and Secretary Hay was as successful as it was magnanimous and commendable.

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